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The Holiday Season is Here!

Numismagram Newsletter #70 (XII/2021)

It never fails—even with the Halloween candy still kicking around in the leftover bowl and Thanksgiving still weeks away, the Christmas commercials and decorations come knocking at the beginning of November. Here, however, that seasonal creep has been spared, *at least to some degree*, as we have waited until after Thanksgiving and until the calendar has *actually* hit December to bust out the Santa medals. And Santa medals we do certainly have, such as this uniface cast iron plaque from the interwar period in Germany…

This piece features St. Nick and a small angel hauling back a Yule tree to be decorated. You can almost smell the popcorn that will be strung and hung upon the tree's branches if it weren't for those sooty smokestacks in the industrial cityscape below.

Next is a French medal also featuring good ole St. Nick, here depicted with three small children. Why, you may ask? Well, one early tradition associated with the real life St. Nicholas from ancient Asia Minor was that he resuscitated three small children who had been abducted, killed, and pickled—*yes, pickled*—so that the perpetrator could sell them as meat. During a famine. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker here undid all that, and legends such as this helped to create the more familiar association with gift-giving and acts of kindness now synonymous with the holiday season…

There's even a medal presenting the Three Magi, *or Three Kings*, who voyaged to Bethlehem, guided by the Christmas star, in order to behold the baby Jesus. The twelve days of Christmas actually refer to this period of time, as they arrived on the appropriately named "Three Kings' Day," also known as Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas on 6 January. The kings thus presented their respective gifts, and that representation can easily be seen here…

The rest of this month's upload is rounded out by a few highly interesting love tokens/engraved coins, two commemorative medals from the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, a couple satirical medals from revolutionary France in 1848, a 1558 jeton pertaining to the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and many other fascinating pieces. For all of this month's new items, click **here** or on the banner art above!

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